A

DESCRIPTION

OF A

SET of PRINTS

TAKEN FROM THE

New Testament.

CONTAINED IN

A SET of EASY LESSONS.

By Mrs. TRIMMER.

London.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

INTRODUCTION.

I HAVE given you the hiſtory of many kingdoms and nations, which were ſucceſſively ſet up in the world through the power of GOD, and deſtroyed by his juſtice for their wickedneſs and pride.

I will now give you an account of a kingdom which will never be deſtroyed:

I mean that of JESUS CHRIST, the SON of GOD, called the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

In the firſt part of Scripture Hiſtory, you read about a great nation proceeding from Abraham, Iſaac, and Jacob, called the Jewiſh nation, which had the LORD GOD for its King. It was foretold by the LORD, that in proceſs of time an HOLY ONE ſhould proceed from this nation, in whom *all the families of the earth ſhould be bleſſed.*

When GOD ſuffered the Jewiſh nation to be deſtroyed by the mighty conqueror

queror Nebuchadnezzar, he preſerved the lives of ſuch perſons as believed in him, and worſhipped him only; and though he permitted them to be carried away from their native land into other countries, yet he continued to ſhew favour to them; and by means of Prophets, whom he ſent as meſſengers to his faithful ſervants, he comforted them with many promiſes, that at his own appointed time, he would raiſe up another kingdom that ſhould laſt for ever and that a King ſhould reign over it of the family of David. And he revealed, by the

Prophet Daniel, the time at which this MESSIAH, or CHRIST, this HEAVENLY KING, was to be born into the world, which thoſe pious Jews who lived in the reign of Herod the Great, and who ſtudied the writings of the Prophets, underſtood would happen about that time.

Among other particulars the Prophets foretold, that the MESSIAH would have a virgin for his mother, would be born in Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, would perform many wonderful works, ſuch as giving

giving ſight to the blind, healing the ſick, &c. would be meek and lowly, and have nothing in his outward appearance to diſtinguiſh him, or make him admired by the world; but that on the contrary, he would be deſpiſed and rejected of men, a man of ſorrows, and acquainted with grief; and that at laſt he would lay down his life, and ſuffer himſelf to be put to a painful and ignominious death, for the ſake of mankind.

The nature of the MESSIAH's kingdom, and

and how it was to be eſtabliſhed *for ever* were left for this Heavenly King himſelf to explain when he ſhould come upon earth.

It was likewiſe foretold by the Prophets, that a Meſſenger, reſembling, in his outward appearance and manners, the Prophet Elijah, would be ſent into the world before the MESSIAH, to prepare people to receive and honour him.

You muſt endeavour to keep theſe particulars in mind, as you purſue the hiſtory you are now going to read.

It may be proper to mention, that though there was not in reality, any thing in the outward appearance of the MESSIAH to diſtinguiſh him from the human race, yet it is uſual to deſcribe him, in pictures and prints with a circle of rays about his head; and this rule is followed in the preſent work.

A DESCRIPTION, &c.

Number I.

An ANGEL appeareth to ZACHARIAS.

IN the days of Herod, the king of Judea, there was a prieſt named Zacharias, and his wife's name was Elizabeth, and they were very good, but had no child, though they were both grown old. And as Zacharias was burning incenſe

in the temple, according to the cuſtom of the Jews, an angel appeared to him ſtanding by the altar. And when Zacharias ſaw him he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel ſaid, Fear not, Zacharias, for thy prayer is heard, and thy wife Elizabeth ſhall bear thee a ſon, and thou ſhalt call his name JOHN; and thou ſhalt have joy and gladneſs, and many ſhall rejoice at his birth: for he ſhall be great in the ſight of the Lord, and ſhall drink neither wine nor ſtrong drink; and he ſhall be filled with the HOLY GHOST (or SPIRIT

SPIRIT of GOD) from his birth. And many of the children (or people) of Iſrael, ſhall he bring back to the LORD their GOD. And he ſhall go forth before him in the ſpirit and power of Elias (or Elijah) to reconcile fathers to their children, and by the wiſdom of the righteous, to render a diſobedient people well-diſpoſed to the LORD.

But Zacharias doubted whether what the angel told him would come to paſs or not; therefore the angel ſaid unto him, I am Gabriel, who attend in the preſence of GOD, and am ſent to

ſpeak unto thee, and ſhew thee the glad tidings (or news.) And behold thou ſhalt be dumb and not able to ſpeak until the day that theſe things are performed, becauſe thou believeſt not my words which ſhall be fulfilled in due time. And it happened to Zacharias as the angel had ſaid unto him; he immediately loſt his ſpeech, and ſoon after returned to his own houſe.

Number

Number II.

The ANGEL GABRIEL delivering GOD's Meſſage to the VIRGIN MARY.

AND about ſix months after the angel Gabriel had appeared to Zacharias, he was ſent from GOD unto a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin, who had promiſed to be the wife of a man named Joſeph, and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel ſaid

unto her, Hail! thou art highly favoured, the LORD is with thee, bleſſed art thou among women.

And when Mary ſaw him ſhe was troubled. And the angel ſaid unto her, Fear not, Mary, for thou haſt found favour with GOD; and behold, thou ſhalt have a ſon, and ſhalt call his name JESUS. He ſhall be great, and ſhall be called the Son of the Higheſt. And the LORD GOD ſhall give unto him the throne of David his father: and he ſhall reign over the houſe of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there ſhall be,

be no end; the Holy Spirit will deſcend upon thee, and the power of the Higheſt will overſhadow thee.

And Mary doubted not; but ſaid, behold the handmaid of the LORD! be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Number III.

The naming of JOHN, the Forerunner, or Meſſenger of the MESSIAH.

AND Elizabeth had a ſon, (*as the

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* See Number I.

angel Gabriel had foretold. And it came to paſs, that when his friends were going to name him Zacharias, his father, (not being able to ſpeak) wrote that he ſhould be called JOHN. And the mouth of Zacharias was immediately opened, and his tongue looſed, and he ſpake, and praiſed GOD. And being filled with the Holy Ghoſt, (or Spirit of God) he propheſied, that this child ſhould be called the Prophet of the HIGHEST, and ſhould go before the LORD to prepare his way, to give knowledge of ſalvation unto his people,

ple, by the remiſſion of their ſins, through the tender mercy of GOD.

And the child John grew, and gave early tokens of courage and piety; he forſook all childiſh ſports, and paſſed his time in a deſart, (or retired place) preparing himſelf for the great work he was deſigned for, and waiting till the LORD ſhould ſend him forth before him.

Number IV.

The Birth of JESUS, the MESSIAH, or CHRIST.

AND behold, while Joſeph doubted whether he ought to make Mary his wife, an angel appeared unto him in a dream, ſaying, Joſeph, thou ſon of David, fear not to take home Mary thy wife. She ſhall have a ſon, and thou ſhalt call his name JESUS; (or Saviour) for he ſhall ſave his people from their ſins.

Then

Then Joſeph being raiſed from ſleep, did as the angel of the LORD had bidden him, and took home Mary his wife.

And it came to paſs in thoſe days, that Auguſtus Cæſar, the Roman Emperor, (to whom the Jews, as well as many other nations were in ſubjection) gave command, that all his ſubjects ſhould repair to the cities their families at firſt belonged to, in order to have their names ſet down in books provided for that purpoſe. And Joſeph alſo went up from Galilee, out of the city of Na-

zareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, called Bethlehem, to have his name ſet down with that of Mary his wife; becauſe they were of the houſe and lineage of David.

And ſo it was, that while they were there, Mary brought forth her firſt-born ſon, and wrapped him in ſwaddling (or baby) clothes, and laid him in a manger, becauſe (the town being ſo full of people who came to have their names ſet down) there was no room for them in the inn.

Number

Number V.

The SHEPHERDS receiving the Tidings of CHRIST's Birth.

NOW there were in the ſame country ſhepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo! the angel of the LORD ſtood by them, and the glory of the LORD ſhone round about them, and they were ſore afraid. And the angel ſaid unto them, Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings, of great joy which ſhall be to you

you and to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a SAVIOUR, which is CHRIST the LORD. And this ſhall be a ſign unto you; ye ſhall find the babe wrapped in ſwaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And ſuddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hoſt, praiſing God, and ſaying, GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH, PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN.

And it came to paſs, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the ſhepherds ſaid one to another, Let

us

us now go even unto Bethlehem, and ſee this thing which is come to paſs, which the LORD hath made known unto us.

And haſtening thither, they found Mary and Joſeph, with the babe, who was lying in a manger. And when they had ſeen this, they made known abroad what had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at thoſe things which were told them by the ſhepherds; but Mary kept all theſe things, and conſidered them in her heart. And the ſhepherds returned, glorifying

rifying and praiſing GOD for all the things that they had heard and ſeen, agreeable to what had been declared unto them.

In this manner was fulfilled what had been foretold by the prophets; that the SAVIOUR, or MESSIAH, ſhould be born of a virgin, of the family of David, and in the city of Bethlehem.

Number VI.

JESUS preſented in the TEMPLE.

AND on the eighth day after his birth, the child was named JESUS, as the

the angel who appeared to Mary before his birth had ſaid. And ſhortly afterwards they brought him to Jeruſalem, to preſent him to the LORD; and behold, there was a good man in Jeruſalem, whoſe name was Simeon, and it was revealed unto him by the HOLY GHOST, that he ſhould not die before he had ſeen the LORD'S CHRIST.

And he came (by the guidance of the HOLY SPIRIT) into the temple, when the parents brought in the child JESUS, to preſent him as the law required.

Then

Then Simeon took JESUS up in his arms and bleſſed GOD, and ſaid, LORD, now letteſt thou thy ſervant depart in peace according to thy word, for mine eyes have ſeen the SAVIOUR, whom thou haſt provided in the ſight of all the world, a light to lighten the Gentiles, (or all nations) and the glory of thy people Iſrael.

And Joſeph and his mother heard with admiration thoſe things which were ſpoken of him.

And there was alſo one Anna, a propheteſs, a very old woman, who ſerved God

God with faſtings and prayers day and night: And ſhe coming in at that inſtant gave thanks likewiſe unto the Lord, and ſpake of him to all thoſe who looked for redemption (or deliverance) in Jeruſalem.

And Joſeph and Mary returned with the child into Galilee to Nazareth.

Number VII.

CHRIST manifeſted, or made known to the GENTILES.

IT was foretold by the Prophets, and Simeon

Simeon, by the HOLY SPIRIT ſaid the ſame, that the MESSIAH ſhould be a teacher of righteouſneſs to the Gentiles as well as to the Jews; (by Gentiles we are to underſtand all the people who were not of the Jewiſh nation; they were out of favour with God becauſe they worſhipped idols) and about the time of CHRIST's birth, the Gentile nations expected a great king in the world; and to increaſe this expectation, GOD cauſed a wonderful ſtar to appear in a country far diſtant from Judea, and made known to ſome wiſe men, that this

this ſtar would, if they followed its courſe, lead them to the preſence of this king. In conſequence of which, they took a very long journey, that they might pay homage to him; and at length arrived in Jeruſalem, ſaying, Where is he who is born king of the Jews? for we have ſeen his ſtar in the eaſt, and are come to worſhip him.

When Herod heard this he was troubled, and all Jeruſalem with him; and when he had gathered all the chief prieſts and ſcribes of the people together, he demanded of them where

CHRIST ſhould (according to the prophets) be born. And they ſaid unto him, In Bethlehem, of Judea.

Then Herod, when he had ſecretly ſent for the wiſe men, inquired of them diligently what time the ſtar appeared. And he ſent them to Bethlehem, and ſaid, Go and ſearch diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worſhip him alſo.

When they had heard the king they departed; and lo! the ſtar which they ſaw in the eaſt moved before them, 'till

it

it came and ſtood over where the young child was. When they ſaw the ſtar they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the houſe, they ſaw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worſhipped him; and when they had opened their treaſures, they preſented unto him gifts (ſuch as were uſual to offer to kings) gold, frankincenſe, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream, that they ſhould not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Number

Number VIII..

JOSEPH and MARY fleeing with JESUS into EGYPT.

AND when the wiſe men had departed, the angel of the LORD appeared unto Joſeph in a dream, ſaying, Ariſe, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word; for Herod will ſeek the young child to deſtroy him. When Joſeph aroſe, he took the young

young child and his mother by night, and fled into the land of Egypt.

Then Herod, when he ſaw that he was mocked of the wiſe men, ſent and ſlew all the children that were in Bethlehem, whom he ſuppoſed (from their age) to have been born ſince the ſtar appeared to the wiſe men. Shortly after the death of the innocents, the cruel king was ſeized with a terrible diſtemper, of which he died in great agonies, and his kingdom was divided among his ſons; and Archelaus (the eldeſt)

who was alſo a very barbarous tyrant, reigned in Judea.

When Herod was dead, an angel of the LORD appeared in a dream to Joſeph, in Egypt, ſaying, Ariſe, and take the young child, and his mother, and go into the land of Iſrael; for they are dead who ſought the young child's life. And Joſeph did ſo: but when he heard that Archelaus reigned in Judea, in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither, notwithſtanding, being warned of GOD in a dream; ſo he turned aſide into a city called Nazareth,

in

in the province of Galilee, which was in the dominions of Herod Antipas, another ſon of Herod the Great, who was of a milder diſpoſition than Archelaus.

Number IX.

Jesus converſing with the Doctors in the Temple.

IT was a cuſtom with all the Jewiſh people, to go to the temple at Jeruſalem every year, at the Feaſt of the Paſſover; and when their children were twelve

years old, they took them with them. At thirteen, young perſons were confirmed by the doctors of the Jewiſh law, and inſtructed in religion.

When JESUS was twelve years old, he went up to Jeruſalem with his mother and Joſeph; but inſtead of returning with them he ſtaid behind. As ſoon as they miſſed him, they went back to Jeruſalem, and after three days they found him in the temple, ſitting in the midſt of the doctors, both hearing them, and aſking them queſtions. And all who

who heard him were aſtoniſhed at his underſtanding and anſwers.

After this, JESUS went back to Nazareth, with Joſeph and Mary, and was ſubject unto them; and he increaſed in wiſdom and ſtature, and in favour with GOD and man.

Number X.

JOHN the BAPTIST Preaching in the WILDERNESS.

AND it came to paſs, that many years after JESUS went firſt to Jeruſalem, the

time being at hand for him to appear as the MESSIAH, John, the ſon of Zacharias, by the command of GOD, went forth in the wilderneſs of Judea, as his forerunner or meſſenger.

And John was clothed like the prophets of old, in a coarſe garment made of camels hair, and faſtened with a leathern girdle; and inſtead of luxurious food, his meat was locuſts (a kind of large graſshopper) and honey, made by wild bees, in the clifts of rocks or hollow trees.

And John came into all the country near

near the river Jordan, ſaying, Repent ye, (or turn from your evil ways) for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. And great multitudes of people went out to meet him; and all ſuch as confeſſed themſelves to be ſinners, and promiſed to amend their lives, he baptized, or waſhed with water, in token that they would be cleanſed by the mercy of GOD, from the ſins they had committed before, ſo as not to be puniſhed for them, and ſhould be admitted into the kingdom of heaven, or the MESSIAH's kingdom. Among

thoſe who followed John, were ſome whom he had reaſon to think hypocrites, or deceitful people; theſe he admoniſhed, to ſhew their repentance by fruits meet or fit for repentance; by which he meant good works: and thoſe who aſked him what kind of good works he meant, he told, to practiſe all the kindneſs in their power to their fellow-creatures.

And as all men muſed in their hearts concerning John, whether he were the CHRIST or not. He anſwered, ſaying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with

with water, but there cometh one after me whoſe ſhoe latchets (or ſtrings) I am not worthy to unlooſe. He ſhall baptize with the HOLY GHOST, (or SPIRIT) and with fire. He will gather the good people together, as a huſbandman gathers the wheat into his barn to be preſerved; and will condemn the wicked to unquenchable fire, as the huſbandman caſts out the chaff to be conſumed, becauſe it is good for nothing.

Number XI.

The BAPTISM of JESUS.

IN a ſhort time after John began to preach and to baptize. JESUS came from Galilee to be baptized of him. Though John had never before ſeen JESUS, he knew him, for the HOLY SPIRIT made him known; and John ſaid to JESUS, I have need to be baptized of thee; and comeſt thou to me? And JESUS anſwering, ſaid, Suffer it to be ſo now, for thus it becometh us to fulfil

fulfil all righteouſneſs, or to conform to every inſtitution of GOD. Then John baptized him.

And JESUS, when he was baptized, went up directly out of the water, and lo! the heavens were opened, and he ſaw the SPIRIT of GOD deſcending and lighting upon him. Then John knew from what the SPIRIT had foretold to him, that this was indeed the divine Perſon who ſhould baptize with the HOLY GHOST; and lo! (to ſtrengthen his belief) there came a voice from heaven, ſaying, This is my

BELOVED SON, in whom I am well pleaſed. From that time, John bare record, ſaying, This is He of whom I ſpake, whoſe ſhoes I am not worthy to unlooſe: He is the SON of GOD.

Number XII.

ANGELS miniſtring to JESUS in the Wilderneſs.

AND JESUS being full of the HOLY GHOST, returned from Jordan, and knowing it was the will of the Father that he ſhould be tempted of the Devil, he

he went into the wilderneſs, and when he had faſted forty days and forty nights he was afterwards an hungred. And the Devil came unto him, promiſing that he would give him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them if he would fall down and worſhip him, hoping, by his temptation, to perſuade him to commit ſin, that he might prevent his being the SAVIOUR of mankind. But JESUS deſpiſed all earthly riches and glory: he looked for a heavenly kingdom, provided for mankind, which would be given into his hands; and reſolved

ſolved to endure all ſorrows, and even ſuffer a ſhameful and painful death on the croſs, rather than loſe this kingdom, and hinder mankind from the happineſs he was to purchaſe for them. JESUS therefore ſaid unto the tempter, Get thee behind me, SATAN; it is written thou ſhalt worſhip the LORD thy GOD, and him only ſhalt thou ſerve. Then the Devil left him, and angels came and miniſtered to him, or attended on him, in order to do him honour as the SON of GOD.

Number

Number XIII.

ANDREW, SIMON, PHILIP, and NATHANAEL Coming to JESUS.

SOON after JESUS left the wilderneſs, a man named Andrew, who had heard the teſtimony of John concerning JESUS, was deſirous of following him, and he perſuaded his own brother Simon to go likewiſe. As ſoon as they came to JESUS, he called Simon by his name, and gave him the ſurname of *Cephas*, which

which ſignifies a *ſtone*, or *rock*. The next day JESUS met with Philip, whom he encouraged to follow him; and Philip invited Nathanael, who readily accompanied him. JESUS ſaw Nathanael coming to him, and ſaith of him, Behold an Iſraelite indeed, in whom is no guile; (that is to ſay, a plain upright man, juſt and true in his dealings, and humble and pious toward GOD.) Nathanael ſaid unto JESUS, Whence knoweſt thou me? JESUS ſaid unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou waſt under the fig-tree, I

ſaw

ſaw thee. Nathanael anſwered, Rabbi, (or Maſter) Thou art the SON of GOD, thou art the KING of ISRAEL. JESUS anſwered, Becauſe I ſaid unto thee, I ſaw thee under the fig-tree, believeſt thou? Thou ſhalt ſee greater things than theſe. Verily, verily, I ſay unto thee, Hereafter thou ſhalt ſee Heaven opened, and the angels of GOD aſcending and deſcending upon the Son of man.

Note. The *Son of Man* was one of the titles given by the prophets to the MESSIAH.

Number

Number XIV.

The firſt Miracle of CHRIST, performed at the Marriage Feaſt in Cana.

THOSE perſons who attended JESUS, with the deſire of being taught by him, are called in Scripture his diſciples. Simon Cephas, or Peter, and Andrew, his firſt diſciples, returned to their former occupations; but it is ſuppoſed Philip remained with him, as it is likely Nathanael did under the name of Bartholomew.

In order to prove that he really was the SON of GOD, JESUS wrought many miracles; that is to ſay, things which no *creature* could poſſibly do.

The firſt of theſe miracles was performed at Cana, in Galilee, at a marriage feaſt, to which JESUS himſelf, his mother, and his diſciples, were invited.

Before the feaſt was over, the mother of JESUS ſaith unto him, they have no wine. JESUS ſaith, mine hour is not yet come. She ſaith unto the ſervants, Whatſoever he ſaith unto you do it. And there were in the room ſix water-

pots

pots of ſtone, (each of them ſuppoſed to contain about thirty gallons) uſed by the Jews for waſhing their hands and faces, and the things they ate and drank out of. JESUS ſaith unto them, Fill the water-pots with water: and they filled them up to the brim. And he ſaith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feaſt: and they bare it.

When the ruler of the feaſt had taſted the water that was made wine, he ſaid, Thou haſt kept the good wine until now. This beginning of miracles did

JESUS,

JESUS, in Cana, of Galilee; and ſhewed forth his glory, and his diſciples believed on him. After this he went up to Jeruſalem, at the paſſover, and wrought other miracles, and his diſciples believed on him.

Number XV.

JESUS converſing with NICODEMUS.

THE Jewiſh rulers were very proud, and did not like that any perſon ſhould pretend to preach doctrines different from

from their own. When they heard that JESUS was followed, they were envious of him, and reſolved to put a ſtop to his preaching; but there was one among them named Nicodemus, who was of a very candid diſpoſition, but he was fearful of letting the reſt know that he had a mind to converſe with JESUS, therefore he came privately to him by night, and ſaid unto him, Rabbi, (or Maſter) We know that thou art a teacher come from GOD; for no man can do theſe miracles which thou doeſt except GOD be with him. JESUS diſ-

courſed

courſed with Nicodemus ſome time, and among other things, which the ruler had never heard before, told him, that *whoever would enter into the kingdom of God, muſt be born of water, and of the ſpirit*; he alſo told him, *God ſo loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoſoever believeth in him ſhould not periſh, but have everlaſting life.*

While JESUS was preaching and working miracles, John continued to baptize; and ſome of John's diſciples were jealous becauſe JESUS was more followed

followed than he whom they called their maſter. John reminded them that he had conſtantly taught them to conſider the MESSIAH as much greater than himſelf; and added, that JESUS muſt *increaſe* in the ſight of the world, while he himſelf muſt *decreaſe*, or appear of leſs conſequence. He who cometh from above (ſaid he) is above all—he who is of the earth is earthly—he who cometh from Heaven is above all. The FATHER loveth the SON, and hath given all things into his hand. He who believeth on the SON hath everlaſting life,

and

and he who believeth not the SON ſhall not ſee life, but the wrath of GOD abideth on him.

From this declaration of the Baptiſt, and the diſcourſe of JESUS with Nicodemus, it appears, that the MESSIAH, or CHRIST, was not only a *man*, born of the Virgin Mary, but likewiſe the LORD from Heaven, the only SON of GOD, on which account he is called in Scripture OUR LORD, and THE LORD.

Number XVI.

Our SAVIOUR converſing with the Woman of SAMARIA.

NOW Herod Antipas, who was Tetrach, or Governor of Galilee, had ſeduced Herodias, the wife of his brother Herod Philip, and married her, for which John the Baptiſt, whom Herod Antipas eſteemed and feared as a holy and juſt man, reproved him. This enraged Herodias, and ſhe perſuaded Herod to put John

John into priſon. The Phariſees alſo grew more and more envious of JESUS, ſo as the time was not come for him to deliver himſelf into their hands, he thought proper to go away into Galilee, and his road thither lay through the province of Samaria.

When he had walked a great way he ſat down to reſt, by a well called Jacob's well; and there came a woman of Samaria to draw water, whom he aſked to give him ſome water, and entered into familiar converſation with her; in the courſe of which, he told

her, among other important things, that GOD *is a Spirit*, and muſt be worſhipped in *Spirit* and in *Truth*, (not merely with the lips, or bended knees, but with the heart and ſoul.) He alſo informed the woman, that he was the MESSIAH or CHRIST.

When his diſciples, who were gone to buy proviſions, came back, they were ſurpriſed to ſee their maſter talking with the woman, becauſe there was great hatred between the Jews and Samaritans; but JESUS loved all mankind. His diſciples ſuppoſing him to be hungry, (as moſt

moſt likely he was) entreated him to eat; but he ſaid, *I have meat to eat that ye know not of. My meat is to do the will of him who ſent me.* This ſhews, that JESUS did not regard ſuffering hunger, when he was teaching people to ſerve GOD as they ought to do.

The woman went and told other Samaritans, who came out to hear, and ſaid unto her, Now we believe, not becauſe of thy report; for we have heard him ourſelves, and know that this is indeed the CHRIST, the SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD.

Number XVII.

The Nobleman coming to entreat JESUS to reſtore his Son.

THEN JESUS came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine; and there was a certain nobleman, whoſe ſon was ſick at Capernaum. When he heard that JESUS was come out of Judea into Galilee, he went unto him, and beſought him that he would come down and heal his ſon, for he was at the

the point of death. Then JESUS ſaid unto him, Except ye ſee ſigns and wonder ye will not believe. The nobleman ſaid unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die. JESUS ſaith unto him, Go thy way, thy ſon liveth. And the man believed the word that JESUS had ſpoken unto him, and he went his way. And as he was going down, his ſervants met him, and told him, ſaying, Thy ſon liveth. Then inquired he of them the hour at which he began to amend: and they ſaid unto him, Yeſterday at the ſeventh hour the fever left

him. So the father knew that it was at the ſame hour in the which JESUS ſaid unto him, Thy ſon liveth; and himſelf, and his whole houſehold believed that JESUS had power to do all things.

From that time, JESUS began to preach and to ſay, *The time is fulfilled*, (foretold by the Prophets) *and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the goſpel.*

To repent, ſignifies to be ſorry for ſin, and to amend our lives. The word GOSPEL means *good tidings*, or *news*. Our Saviour brought the moſt happy tidings,

tidings, or news, that ever were ſent from GOD to mankind; but it was ſent only to thoſe who would *repent*, and *believe him to be the* SON OF GOD.

Number XVIII.

The miraculous Draught of Fiſhes. JESUS calleth PETER, ANDREW, JAMES, and JOHN.

AND it came to paſs one time, as JESUS ſtood by the lake of Genezareth, the multitude preſſing upon him to hear

him, he ſaw two barks, or little ſhips, a-ground near the edge; but the fiſhermen were on ſhore waſhing their nets. And he entered into one of the barks, which was Simon's, and deſired that he would put off a little from the land; and he ſat down and taught the people out of the bark. Now when he had left ſpeaking, JESUS ſaid unto Simeon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon anſwered, Maſter, we have toiled all night, and have taken nothing; nevertheleſs, at thy word, I will let down the net.

And

And having done this, they enclosed such a multitude of fishes, that their net brake. And Peter, and Andrew, his brother, beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other bark, that they should come and help them. And they came, and laded both the barks so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at JESUS' knees, crying, Depart from me, O LORD! for I am a sinful man. For he was struck with consternation, and all who were with him, at the miraculous draught of fishes which they had taken; particularly

James and John, the ſons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And JESUS ſaid unto Simon, Fear not, henceforth thou ſhalt catch men; that is to ſay, you ſhall by your preaching draw men to you. And when JESUS, as he went out from thence, ſaw James, and John, his brother, in the bark, with Zebedee, their father, mending their nets, he called them. And they immediately left their father and went after him; and when the barks were brought to land, Peter, Andrew, James, and John, forſook all and followed him,

JESUS

JESUS having chosen them to be his companions, that they might see his miracles, hear his doctrine, and bear witness that he was really the CHRIST, the SON of GOD.

Number XIX.

The Paralytic Man healed.

AND JESUS went about all Galilee, teaching in their Synagogues, (or churches) and preaching the Gospel, (or glad tidings) of the kingdom of Heaven, and

and proving himſelf to be the SON of GOD, by healing all manner of ſickneſs and diſeaſe among the people, by his word alone, without the uſe of any medicine whatever. And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jeruſalem, and from Judea, and from beyond Jordan.

And it came to paſs on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Phariſees, and Doctors of the law ſitting by, who were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jeruſalem,

ſalem, that they might find ſomething to accuſe him of, becauſe they were afraid his doctrine would overturn their own. The report of his being ſo attended, brought many to hear him, and ſuch numbers were gathered together, that there was not room to receive them, no not ſo much as about the door: and he preached the Goſpel unto them.

And a poor man, ſick of the palſy, who was ſo very helpleſs that he required four people to carry him, was brought unto JESUS, that he might

cure

cure him. And when thoſe who bore him found the crowd ſo great, that they could not get admittance into the houſe, they got up upon the roof, and taking off the covering, contrived to let the poor creature down that way into the room. And JESUS ſeeing their faith, (or belief in his power) ſaid unto the ſick of the palſy, Son, be of good cheer, thy ſins be forgiven thee.

And behold, certain of the Scribes, or Jewiſh teachers, ſaid within themſelves, This man blaſphemeth, (or diſhonoureth GOD.) Who can forgive ſins but

but GOD alone? And immediately, JESUS knowing their thoughts, though they did not ſpeak them, ſaid, Why reaſon ye theſe things in your hearts? Which is eaſieſt, think you, to ſay to the ſick of the palſy, Thy ſins be forgiven thee; or to ſay, (with effect) Ariſe, and take up thy bed and walk? But that ye may know that the SON of MAN (or MESSIAH) hath power on earth to forgive ſins, (he ſaith to the ſick of the palſy) I ſay unto thee, Take up thy bed, and go thy way to thine own houſe. And immediately he aroſe

aroſe before them all, and took up his bed, and departed, glorifying GOD. And they were all amazed; and they glorified GOD, and were filled with fear, ſaying, We have ſeen incredible things to-day.

Number XX.

JESUS reſtores to Life Jairus's Daughter.

AND behold, there came to JESUS one of the rulers of the Synagogue, Jairus by name. And he fell at JESUS's feet,

feet, and beſought him greatly, ſaying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that ſhe may be healed, and may live. And JESUS went with him and much people; and there met him ſome from the ruler's houſe, who ſaid, Thy daughter is dead, why troubleſt thou the maſter any further?

As ſoon as JESUS heard the word that was ſpoken, he ſaid to the ruler of the Synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe; and he ſuffered no man to follow him, excepting three of his diſciples, Peter, James,

James, and John. And when he came to the houſe, he took with him the father and the mother of the damſel, and his three diſciples, and entered into the room where ſhe was lying; and he took the damſel by the hand, and ſaid, Damſel, I ſay unto thee, ariſe! And ſtraightway ſhe aroſe and walked; for ſhe was of the age of twelve years. And they were aſtoniſhed with great aſtoniſhment. And he commanded that ſomething ſhould be given her to eat, that they might be convinced ſhe was really alive.

Number

Number XXI.

JESUS appointeth twelve Apoſtles.

AND it came to paſs, that after performing many wonderful works, our LORD went up into a mountain to pray to the FATHER; and continued all night in prayer. And when it was day he called unto him a number of his diſciples, and of them he choſe twelve, and theſe he called Apoſtles, and appointed them to be with him, to hear his doctrine,

trine, behold his miracles, and obſerve his manner of life; and that he ſhould ſend them out to preach, and to have power to heal ſickneſſes, and do other wonderful works in his name.

And the names of the twelve Apoſtles were theſe: *Simon Peter*, *James*, the ſon of Zebedee, and *John*, his brother; *Andrew*, *Philip*, *Bartholomew*, *Matthew*, *Thomas*, *James*, the ſon of Alpheus; *Thaddeus*, *Simon*, the Cananite, and *Judas Iſcariot*.

And JESUS came down with them, and ſtood in the plain, and the company of

of his diſciples, and a great multitude of people who came from different parts, to hear him, and to be healed of their diſeaſes; and they were healed. And they went into a houſe, and the multitude came together again, ſo that they could not ſo much as eat bread, or take their uſual nouriſhment.

Number

Number XXII.

Our SAVIOUR preaching his Sermon on the Mount.

AND ſeeing the multitude, JESUS went up into a mountain; and when he was ſat, his diſciples came unto him, and he opened his mouth, and taught them, ſaying,

Bleſſed are the poor in ſpirit, (or thoſe who have an humble opinion of themſelves) for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

Bleſſed

Bleſſed are they who mourn, (or are ſorry for their ſins) for they ſhall be comforted.

Bleſſed are the meek, (or thoſe who are willing to learn their duty, cautious of giving offence, and patient in bearing ill treatment) for they ſhall inherit the earth, (or enjoy more peace and quietneſs in it than others.)

Bleſſed are they who do hunger and thirſt after righteouſneſs, (or are as deſirous of learning the will of GOD, and doing it, as thoſe who ſuffer hunger and thirſt are of victuals and drink) for they

ſhall be filled (with what they ſo earneſtly deſire.)

Bleſſed are the merciful, (or thoſe who feel compaſſion for the miſeries of others) for they ſhall obtain mercy, (not only from their fellow-creatures, but from GOD.)

Bleſſed are the peace-makers, (thoſe who not only avoid quarrels themſelves, but try to make them up between others) for they ſhall be called the children of GOD.

Our LORD alſo taught his diſciples to be kind, and good-natured to all people.

people. Whatſoever ye would that men ſhould do unto you, ſaid he, do ye ſo unto them. Love your enemies, ſo as to do good when in your power to thoſe who are ſpiteful to you; for this is the way for you to become the children of GOD your FATHER, who is in Heaven.

He likewiſe inſtructed them to keep from ſwearing, and calling reproachful names: and taught them that excellent Prayer, which we call the LORD'S PRAYER, becauſe it was made by our SAVIOUR.

He likewiſe admoniſhed them not to ſet their minds too much on the things of this world; but to live in ſuch a manner, that they might have treaſures in Heaven, which never ſpoil, waſte, or decay: and to put their truſt in GOD their Heavenly FATHER, who will give to all who ſhew themſelves deſirous of heavenly treaſures, and ſtrive to do their duty with the hope of obtaining them, as large a ſhare of the good things of this world as is proper for them.

Our LORD alſo told his diſciples, not to judge hardly of any of their fellow-

creatures,

creatures, but to attend to their own faults, and mend themſelves; and to try to be good *indeed*, and not merely to *appear* ſo to men; for he aſſured them, that none but thoſe who endeavour to do the will of GOD, ſhall enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

From this diſcourſe of our LORD's, it appears, that the kingdom of Heaven is very different from the kingdoms of this world.

Number XXIII.

JESUS raiſeth to Life the Widow's Son.

AND it came to paſs, ſoon after that JESUS had ended his ſermon on the Mount, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his diſciples went with him, and much people.

Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold there was a dead man carried out, and he was the only ſon of his mother, and ſhe was a widow, and

and much people of the city were with her.

And when the LORD ſaw her, he had compaſſion on her, and ſaid unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier, and thoſe who bare it ſtood ſtill; and JESUS ſaid, Young man, I ſay unto thee, Ariſe. And he who was dead ſat up, and began to ſpeak; and he delivered him to his mother.

And there came a fear on all: and they glorified GOD, ſaying, That a great Prophet is riſen up among us; and that GOD has viſited his people.

Number XXIV.

JESUS ſtilleth the Tempeſt.

NOW it came to paſs on a certain day, that JESUS went into a bark, and his diſciples followed him; and he ſaid unto them, Let us croſs the lake: and they accordingly ſet ſail. And behold there aroſe a great tempeſt in the lake, ſo that the bark was covered with the waves; but he was in the hinder part of the ſhip, aſleep; and they awoke him, and

and ſaid unto him, Maſter, careſt thou not that we periſh? And JESUS aroſe and rebuked the winds, and ſaid unto the water, Peace! be ſtill! and the wind ceaſed, and there was a great calm.

And he ſaid unto his diſciples, Why are ye ſo fearful? How is it that ye have no faith? (or truſt in my power.) And they ſaid one to another, with fear and admiration, What man is this who commandeth even the winds and the water, and they obey him?—Surely they had forgotten what John the Baptiſt ſaid of JESUS, that he was the SON of GOD,

or they would not have been ſo amazed at his working miracles.

Number XXV.

JESUS explaining his Parables to his twelve Apoſtles.

AFTER JESUS ſtilled the tempeſt, he performed many wonderful works, of which when his enemies, the Scribes and Phariſees heard, they ſaid, that he did them by the power of the Devil; but JESUS declared publickly, that he came

came into the world to deliver mankind from the power of the Devil; and told his disciples, that whoever ascribed the miracles he did by the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD, to the Devil, was guilty of blasphemy against the HOLY GHOST, and would never be forgiven.

And JESUS went about throughout every city and village, preaching, and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of GOD, and the twelve apostles were with him. And he taught many things unto them by parables, or short instructive stories, which I fear you

would not fully underſtand; and therefore I will only tell you what he told his apoſtles plainly, when they entreated him to explain theſe parables; namely, that when this world is at an end, the MESSIAH will ſend forth his angels, and they ſhall gather out of his kingdom all thoſe who do wickedly, and caſt them into a place of torment, where they will ſuffer the utmoſt miſery for ever: and that then the righteous, or good, will ſhine forth in glory in the kingdom of their Father. Our LORD adviſed his diſciples to ſeek for the riches

of

of this kingdom, as earneſtly as they would for great treaſures, ſince nothing could be ſo truly valuable to them.

When JESUS had finiſhed theſe ſayings, he departed thence, and went about teaching in the Synagogues, and healing every ſickneſs, and every diſeaſe among the people, giving ſight to the blind, and reſtoring the limbs of thoſe who were maimed.

And he ſent forth his apoſtles two and two, to preach the Goſpel in different parts, giving them power to do ſo, though they were unlearned men, and

alſo

alſo to perform miracles in his name. Our LORD told theſe diſciples, that they would meet with a great deal of ill-treatment in the world, but deſired them to have good courage, and truſt in his power, and not to fear thoſe who can only kill the body, but rather to fear GOD, who after he has killed, has power to caſt into Hell. And when he had made an end of commanding his twelve apoſtles he departed thence, to teach, and to preach in their cities.

Number

Number XXVI.

The Death of John the Baptiſt.

JOHN the Baptiſt continued all this time in priſon; for Herodias could not prevail on the king to cut him off: but at length a convenient opportunity offered, for Herod on his birth-day gave an entertainment to his lords, high captains, and chief eſtates of Galilee; and the daughter of Herodias came in and danced before them, and pleaſed Herod

Herod and his gueſts ſo much, that the king ſware unto the damſel, ſaying, Whatſoever thou ſhalt aſk of me, I will give it thee, even to the half of my kingdom.

And ſhe withdrew, and ſaid unto her mother, What ſhall I aſk? And ſhe ſaid, The head of John the Baptiſt. And Herodias's daughter returning haſtily to the king, made this requeſt; I would that thou give me preſently in a charger, or baſon, the head of John the Baptiſt.

And the king was exceedingly ſorry; yet becauſe he had ſolemnly ſworn, and

was

was fearful that his gueſts would deſpiſe him for breaking his oath, he would not reject her, but immediately ſent an executioner, and deſired the Baptiſt's head to be brought; and the executioner went and beheaded John in priſon, and brought his head in a charger, and preſented it to the damſel, and ſhe preſented it to her mother. And when John's diſciples heard it, they came and took his corpſe, and laid it in a tomb.

Soon after the death of John, JESUS departed by ſhip into a deſart place; and when the people heard thereof, they followed

followed him on foot out of the cities, and his name was ſpread abroad, ſo that Herod heard of it. And he was perplexed, and ſaid unto his ſervants, John have I beheaded, but who is this of whom I hear ſuch things? and ſome ſaid, it is Elijah, and others that he is a Prophet, or as one of the Prophets. But Herod, (whoſe conſcience made him afraid) ſaid, It is John the Baptiſt, whom I beheaded; he is riſen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do ſhew forth themſelves in him. And he deſired to ſee him; but JESUS would not go unto him.

Number XXVII.

JESUS feeds Five Thouſand People with Five Loaves and Two Fiſhes.

AFTER theſe things JESUS went over the ſea of Galilee, and a great multitude followed him, becauſe they ſaw the miracles which he did on thoſe who were diſeaſed. And the apoſtles returned back, and related what things they had done, and what they had taught; and he departed with them by ſhip privately

vately to a desart place, that they might rest themselves. But the people saw them departing, and many ran on foot out of all the cities, and came unto him.

And JESUS, when he saw much people was moved with compassion, and healed those who had need of healing, because they were as a flock of sheep having no shepherd: and he taught them many things.

And when it grew late, his disciples desired him to send the multitude away; but he said, Give ye them to eat. Andrew,

drew, Simon Peter's brother, ſaid, We have a lad here who has five barley loaves and two ſmall fiſhes; but what are they among ſo many? And JESUS ſaid, Make them ſit down; ſo the men ſat down, in number about five thouſand. And JESUS took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he diſtributed to the diſciples, and the diſciples to them that were ſat down, and likewiſe of the fiſhes as much as they would. And they did all eat and were filled. When they were filled, he ſaid unto his diſciples, Gather up the fragments that

that remain, that nothing be loſt; therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baſkets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them who had eaten. And they who had eaten were about five thouſand men, beſides women and children.

Then theſe men, when they had ſeen the miracle that JESUS did, believed in him; and when he perceived that they would take him by force and make him a king, he ſent the multitude away, and his diſciples, and departed again into a mountain

mountain by himſelf alone; (for the time was not yet come for him to take his kingdom.)

Number XXVIII.

Jesus walking on the Sea.

AND the bark in which his diſciples were, was toſſed about on the ſea by a contrary wind, and in the middle of the night, when it was a great diſtance from the land, his diſciples ſaw Jesus walking on the water, and drawing nigh

nigh unto the ſhip, and they were terrified, and they cried out for fear, (for they forgot that their LORD was always kind and gracious) and JESUS ſpake unto them, ſaying, It is I, be not afraid. And Peter anſwered and ſaid, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come to thee on the water: and he ſaid, Come. And when Peter was come out of the ſhip, he (through the power of CHRIST) walked on the water likewiſe; but when he ſaw the wind boiſterous, his faith, or belief in CHRIST's power, failed, he was afraid, and beginning to ſink, he

he cried out, LORD, ſave me! And immediately JESUS ſtretched forth his hand and caught him, ſaying, O thou of little faith, wherefore didſt thou doubt?

And when they were come into the bark the wind ceaſed: and immediately the bark (through the power of CHRIT) was at the land to which they wiſhed to go. And they who were in the bark, came and worſhipped him, ſaying, Of a truth thou art the SON of GOD.

And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they ſent out into

all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diſeaſed, and beſought him, that they might only touch the hem of his garment; and as many as touched were healed by him, becauſe they believed in his power.

Number XXIX.

Some of the Diſciples forſaking JESUS. Peter declaring his Belief in him.

SOON after our LORD fed the five thouſand, the multitudes came to him again,

again, expecting to be fed in the ſame miraculous manner. Inſtead of feeding he reproved them, and admoniſhed them not to follow him for the ſake of things of a periſhable nature, but to ſeek for things that would nouriſh their ſouls to everlaſting life, which he, as the MESSIAH, could give them. Then ſaid they unto him, what ſhall we do, that we may work the work of GOD? JESUS ſaid unto them, This is the work of GOD, that ye believe on him whom he hath ſent. And many other things ſpake he unto them; but as his diſ-

courſes were contrary to their preſent inclinations, many of them, who followed him for the ſake of the loaves and fiſhes, went away, and attended no more upon him.

Then ſaid JESUS unto the twelve, Will ye alſo go away? Then Simon Peter anſwered him, LORD, to whom ſhould we go? Thou haſt the words of eternal life: and we believe, and are ſure that thou art the CHRIST, the SON of the LIVING GOD.

Number XXX.

JESUS healeth a Man who was deaf, and had an Impediment in his Speech.

AND JESUS paſſed through the midſt of Decapolis: and he went up into a mountain and ſat down there. And they brought unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his ſpeech; and they beſought him to put his hand upon him. And he took him aſide from the multitude, and put his finger into

his ears, and he ſpit, and touched his tongue, and ſaid unto him, *Ephphatha*, that is, *Be opened.* And immediately his ears were opened, and the ſtring of his tongue was looſed, and he ſpake plain. And the people were aſtoniſhed beyond meaſure, and ſaid, He hath done all things well, he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to ſpeak. And great multitudes came unto him, having with them thoſe who were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and caſt them down at JESUS's feet; and he healed them all; inſomuch, that the multitude

multitude wondered; and they glorified the GOD of Iſrael.—After this JESUS fed four thouſand people with ſeven loaves and a few fiſhes: and they gathered up ſeven baſkets full of fragments.

Number XXXI.

The TRANSFIGURATION.

AND JESUS took Peter, James, and John, his brother, into an high mountain apart to pray. And as he prayed he was transfigured (or changed in his appearance) before them, and his face

ſhone as the ſun, and his raiment became white as the light. And behold there appeared unto him Moſes and Elias (or Elijah) talking with him, who appeared in glory, and ſpake of his deceaſe which would happen at Jeruſalem. But Peter, and they who were with him, were heavy to ſleep; and when they were awake they ſaw his glory, and the two men who ſtood with him.

And behold, a bright cloud overſhadowed them: and behold, a voice out of the cloud which ſaid, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleaſed;

pleaſed; hear ye him. And when the diſciples heard it, they fell on their faces, and were ſore afraid. And JESUS came and touched them, and ſaid, Ariſe, and be not afraid. And when they lifted up their eyes they ſaw no man, but JESUS only.

And as they came down from the mountain, JESUS charged them, ſaying, Tell the viſion to no one, until the Son of Man be riſen from the dead. And they kept the affair ſecret among themſelves, queſtioning one with another, what the riſing from the dead ſhould mean?

Number XXXII.

JESUS diſcourſeth with his Diſciples upon Humility.

AND JESUS continued to perform many miracles, both in the city of Jeruſalem, and other places; but the more he ſhewed forth his power, the more ſpiteful were the Jews againſt him; particularly the chief prieſts and rulers. The reaſon of their enmity was this: they had formed expectation of

their

their MESSIAH's coming in great earthly pomp, to deliver them from their ſubjection to the Romans, and ſet their nation up, as in the days of David and Solomon, above all the kingdoms of the earth; and becauſe our LORD came in a meek and lowly manner, they would not believe him to be the MESSIAH, though he wrought ſuch wonderful works, as proved him to be the SON of GOD; and did the very things which the Prophets had foretold that the MESSIAH would do. And they carried their rage againſt him to ſuch a

height, that they reſolved to kill him. This our LORD knew, and told his diſciples, that he ſhould be put to death by the chief prieſts and ſcribes; and that he ſhould riſe again from the dead the third day. This his diſciples could not underſtand; for they, as well as the Jews, expected to ſee their Maſter a great King on earth, and were very deſirous of knowing who would be the greateſt in the kingdom of Heaven.

Whenever they aſked this queſtion, he reproved them; and once when they did ſo, he took a little child, and ſet

him

him in the midſt, and when he had taken him in his arms, he ſaid unto them, Verily, I ſay unto you, except ye become as little children, (meek and humble) ye ſhall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

Number XXXIII.

JESUS viſits his Friends at Bethany.

NOTWITHSTANDING the wicked deſigns of the Jewiſh rulers, our LORD continued to go up to Jeruſalem, for

for he feared them not, becauſe he knew they had no power to hurt him, till he ſhould yield himſelf into their hands; but they employed ſpies to watch all his actions, that they might find pretences for perſecuting him, and held many converſations with him themſelves, in hopes of his ſaying ſomething which they might lay hold of againſt him; and once they were ſo enraged at his declaring himſelf the SON of GOD, and greater than *Abraham*, that they took up ſtones to caſt at him; but he conveyed himſelf out of their ſight.

As

As he was going from Jeruſalem, he entered into a certain village, called Bethany; and a woman named Martha, received him into her houſe. And ſhe had a ſiſter called Mary, who (as ſoon as our LORD entered, laid aſide all worldly buſineſs) and ſat down at his feet to hear his word. But Martha, intent upon giving a feaſt to her gueſt, employed herſelf in domeſtic affairs; and being cumbered with much ſerving, came and ſaid to JESUS, Lord, doſt thou not care that my ſiſter leaveth me to ſerve alone? bid her therefore aſſiſt me.

And

And JESUS answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art anxious and troublest thyself about many things, but one thing is needful; and Mary has chosen that good part which shall not be taken from her.

From this we may learn, that Religion ought to have the first place in our thoughts; and that we should embrace every opportunity of improving ourselves in it.

Number

Number XXXIV.

JESUS talking with the Man to whom he had given Sight.

AND JESUS continued to work miracles; and among other wonderful things which he did, he gave ſight to a man who was born blind. This miracle was performed on the Sabbath-day, and ſome of the Phariſees took great offence at it, becauſe they ſaid, no work ſhould be done on the Sabbath: but our LORD's doctrine

doctrine was, that people might *do good* on the Sabbath-day and *ſave life*.

From this time the Scribes and Phariſees were fully reſolved to kill JESUS; and they made a law to caſt out of their Synagogue whoſoever ſhould acknowledge him to be the CHRIST; and began with caſting out the man who had been cured. JESUS heard that they had caſt him out; and when he had found him, he ſaid unto him, Doſt thou believe in the SON of GOD? He anſwered and ſaid, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe in him? And JESUS ſaid unto

unto him, Thou haſt both ſeen him, and it is he who talketh with thee. And he ſaid, Lord, I believe: and he worſhipped him.

After this our LORD diſcourſed with the Jews, and proclaimed himſelf to be the good Shepherd of Iſrael, whom the Prophets had foretold would come into the world. He declared, that he would lay down his life for his ſheep, (or ſuch perſons as would ſubmit to be led by him) that no man had power to take his life from him. I have power (ſaid he) to lay it down, and I have power to take

take it up again. This commandment, (or power) have I from the Father.

There was a diviſion therefore again among the Jews for theſe ſayings; and many of them ſaid, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? Others ſaid, Theſe are not the words of him who hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?

Number

Number XXXV.

The Jews going to ſtone JESUS.

AND in the winter, at the feaſt of the dedication, JESUS walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. Then came the Jews round about him, and ſaid unto him, How long doſt thou make us to doubt? If thou be the CHRIST, tell us plainly. JESUS anſwered them, I told you, and ye believed not, becauſe ye are not of my ſheep, as I ſaid unto you.

you. My ſheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life, and they ſhall never periſh, neither ſhall any pluck them out of my hand. My Father, who gave them to me, is greater than all; and none is able to pluck them out of my FATHER's hand. I and my FATHER are one.

Then the Jews took up ſtones to ſtone him. JESUS ſaid to them, Many good works have I ſhewed you from my FATHER; for which of thoſe works do ye ſtone me? The Jews anſwered him, ſaying,

ſaying, For a good work we ſtone thee not; but for blaſphemy, and becauſe that thou, being a man, maketh thyſelf GOD. JESUS anſwered them, If I do not the works of my FATHER, believe me not; but if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works, that ye may know and believe that the FATHER is in ME, and I in HIM. Therefore they ſought again to take him; but he eſcaped out of their hands, and went away beyond Jordan, into the place where John at firſt baptized; and there he abode. And many reſorted unto him,

him, and ſaid, John did no miracle; but all things that John ſpake of this man were true. And many believed on him there.

Number XXXVI.

Little Children brought to CHRIST.

IT was a cuſtom among the Jews to preſent their children to perſons remarkable for their piety, that they might ly their hands on them, and recommend

mend them by their prayers to the favour of GOD.

And they brought young infants unto JESUS, that he might put his hands upon them and pray: and his diſciples ſuppoſing them to be troubleſome) rebuked them. But when JESUS ſaw it, he was much diſpleaſed, and ſaid unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of ſuch is the kingdom of GOD. Verily, I ſay unto you, Whoſever ſhall not receive the kingdom of GOD as a little child, ſhall not enter therein. And

he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and bleſſed them.

From the encouragement our LORD gave in this inſtance, Chriſtian parents baptize or chriſten children in their infancy; not doubting but that he will receive, and reckon them among the people of his kingdom.

Children receive the kingdom of GOD when they are deſirous of being taught the things belonging to it; and attend to religious inſtruction with meekneſs and humility.

Number

Number XXXVII.

The raiſing of LAZARUS.

LAZARUS, the brother of Martha and Mary, was ſick. Now JESUS loved him, therefore the ſiſters ſent to entreat him to come; but he went not till he knew that Lazarus was dead. And Martha went out to meet him, and when ſhe ſaw him, ſhe ſaid, LORD, if thou hadſt been here, my brother had not died; but I know that even now

whatſoever thou ſhalt aſk of GOD, GOD will give thee. JESUS ſaid unto her, Thy brother ſhall riſe again. I am the reſurrection and the life. He who believeth on me, though he were dead, yet ſhall he live; and whoſoever liveth and believeth in me ſhall never die. Believeſt thou this? She ſaith unto him, Yea, LORD, I believe that thou art the MESSIAH, the SON of GOD; he who cometh into the world.

When ſhe had ſo ſaid ſhe went away, and called Mary, her ſiſter, whiſpering her, the Teacher is come. Then Mary aroſe

aroſe and went to him, and ſeveral friends went with her.

When ſhe ſaw JESUS, ſhe fell at his feet, ſaying, LORD, if thou hadſt been here my brother had not died!

When JESUS ſaw Mary and her friends weeping, he groaned deeply, and was troubled in ſpirit, and ſaid, Where have ye lain him? They anſwered, LORD, come and ſee. JESUS WEPT. Then ſaid the Jews, Behold how he loved him.

Now the grave was a cave, and a ſtone lay at the entrance of it. JESUS

ſaid, Remove the ſtone. Martha ſaid, LORD, by this time he ſmelleth offenſively; for he hath been four days dead. JESUS ſaith unto her, Said I not unto thee, if thou believe thou ſhalt ſee the glory of GOD? Then they removed the ſtone. And JESUS cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth! And he who was dead came forth in his grave-clothes. Jeſus ſaid unto them, looſe him and let him go. And many of the Jews who came to Mary, and had ſeen the things that JESUS did, believed on him; but ſome went their way

way to the Phariſees, and told them what things JESUS had done.

And when the chief prieſts and rulers heard of it, they took counſel together from that day forth, to put him to death; and gave command, that if any one knew where he was, they ſhould give information, that he might be taken.

Number XXXVIII.

MARY waſhing the Feet of JESUS, and wiping them with her Hair.

THOUGH JESUS knew the malice of the Jews he went to Jeruſalem; and in the way thither, he told his diſciples, that he ſhould be delivered unto the chief prieſts and ſcribes, and ſhould by them be condemned to death, and delivered to the Gentiles; that he ſhould be mocked, ſpit upon, ſcourged, and at length

length killed, and that he ſhould riſe again the third day. After this he continued to work miracles, and ſpeak inſtructive parables, concerning the kingdom of Heaven.

As JESUS, in his way to Jeruſalem, paſſed through Bethany, he ſtopped to ſup with one Simon, who invited Martha, and Mary, and Lazarus, to meet him. Martha, to ſhew her reſpect, waited on our LORD, but Mary took a box of coſtly ointment, and poured it on his head, and then anointed his feet, and wiped them with her hair; and the

houſe was filled with the perfume of the ointment. This action of Mary's was a mark of great reſpect and veneration. But one of our LORD's apoſtles, named Judas Iſcariot, pretended to take offence at her waſting what might have been ſold for a great deal of money, and given to the poor; (not that he cared for the poor, for he was a very bad man) but JESUS commended Mary, and ſaid, The poor ye have always with you, and whenſoever ye will ye may do them good; but me ye have not always: ſhe hath done what ſhe could, ſhe hath come

come beforehand to anoint my body to the burial. Verily, I ſay unto you, whereſoever this goſpel ſhall be preached, throughout the whole world, there this alſo that ſhe hath done, ſhall be ſpoken of for a memorial.

Number XXXIX.

JESUS makes a triumphant Entry into JERUSALEM.

AND as they drew nigh to Jeruſalem, JESUS ſaid unto his diſciples, Go into

the village over againſt you, and ye ſhall find an aſs tied, and with her a colt, whereon never man ſat, looſe them, and bring them unto me. And if any man ſay ought unto you, ye ſhall ſay, The LORD hath need of them; and he will ſend them immediately. And they did ſo, and they brought the colt to JESUS, and they caſt their garments on the colt, and they ſat JESUS upon him; and many ſpread their garments in the way, others cut down branches and ſtrewed them; and they who went before, and they who followed after cried, ſaying, Ho-

ſanna!

ſanna! bleſſed is he who cometh in the name of the LORD. And a great multitude of people, when they heard that JESUS was coming to Jeruſalem, took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, ſaying, Hoſanna! bleſſed is Iſrael's King, who cometh in the name of the LORD! And the whole multitude of the diſciples began to rejoice, and to praiſe GOD with a loud voice, for all the mighty works that they had ſeen, ſaying, Bleſſed be the King who cometh in the name of the LORD! peace in heaven, and glory

in

in the higheſt. Thus was fulfilled that which was ſpoken by the Prophet, (Zechariah) ſaying, Tell ye the daughters of Sion, Behold thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and ſitting upon an aſs, and a colt, the foal of an aſs.

And when JESUS was come near the city, he wept over it, ſaying, If thou hadſt conſidered, at leaſt in this thy day the things which concern thy peace; but now they are hid from thine eyes. The days are coming upon thee, when thine enemies ſhall dig a trench about thee, and compaſs thee round, and keep thee

thee in on every ſide, and ſhall level thee with the ground, and cruſh thy children, or inhabitants, in thy ruins, and will not leave in thee one ſtone upon another that ſhall not be thrown down, becauſe thou didſt not conſider the time when thou waſt viſited, (or the time of thy King's coming to bring ſalvation.)

After this JESUS foretold to his diſciples, that Jeruſalem ſhould be deſtroyed by the *Roman* power: and that this deſtruction ſhould happen during the lives of ſome of them who were at that time on the earth; he alſo foretold ſome particulars

particulars concerning the end of the world, and the day of Judgment; and commanded them to live ſo that they might always be prepared for the coming of their LORD.

Number XL.

JUDAS agrees with the Chief Prieſts to betray his LORD.

AND JESUS having finiſhed all his diſcourſes in the temple, ſaid unto his diſciples, Ye know, that after two days

is the Feaſt of the Paſſover, and the Son of Man is betrayed to be crucified.

Then aſſembled together the chief prieſts, and the ſcribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high prieſt, who was called Caiphas, and conſulted that they might take JESUS by ſurpriſe, and kill him; but they ſaid, Not on the feaſt day, leſt there be a commotion among the people.

And Judas, one of the twelve, yielded to the temptations of Satan, who put into his mind to betray his LORD; ſo Judas went his way, and communed with

with the chief prieſts, how he might betray him unto them; and ſaid unto them, what will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you. And they agreed with him for thirty pieces of ſilver; (about three pounds fifteen ſhillings) and from that time he ſought opportunity to betray him. And JESUS knew what paſſed between the chief prieſts and Judas; for all hearts were open to him. He knew alſo that the hour was near, when according to the will of the FATHER, he was to lay down his life for the ſins of the world; there-

fore

fore he desired his disciples to prepare for his eating the passover with them, and they provided a large, upper room.

Number XLI.

JESUS eats his last SUPPER with his Disciples.

AND when JESUS and his apostles were met to eat the passover, he said unto them, I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer. For I say unto you, I will not any

any more eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of GOD.

And as they were eating JESUS took bread and bleſſed it, and brake it, and gave to his diſciples, and ſaid, Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, ſaying, Drink ye all of it: for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is ſhed for you, and for many, for the remiſſion of ſins; do this, as oft as ye ſhall drink it, in remembrance of me.

After

After this, JESUS ſaid unto his diſciples, Verily, I ſay unto you, that one of you will betray me; and they were very ſorrowful, and began to ſay, Is it I? And he told his apoſtle John, that it would be that apoſtle to whom he ſhould give a ſop when he had dipped it—And he gave the ſop to Judas. Soon after Judas went out, and it was night.

When he was gone, JESUS ſaid unto his diſciples, Yet a little while I am with you, ye ſhall ſeek me; and as I ſaid unto the Jews, Whither I go ye cannot come, ſo now I ſay unto you,

A new

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; that as I have loved you, ye alſo love one another: by this ſhall all men know that ye are my diſciples, if ye have love to one another. Let not your hearts be troubled; ye believe in GOD, believe alſo in ME. In my FATHER's houſe (meaning heaven) there are many manſions; (or dwellings) if it were otherwiſe, I would have told ye, I go to prepare a place for you. And after I ſhall have gone and prepared a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myſelf; that where I am

ye

ye may alſo be: I will not leave you comfortleſs; I will ſend to you from the FATHER, the SPIRIT of TRUTH, who ſhall guide you into all Truth. I came forth from the FATHER, and am come into the world; again I leave the world and go to the FATHER. Theſe things I have ſpoken unto you that ye might have peace. In the world ye ſhall have tribulation; but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world. Theſe and many other things ſpake JESUS to comfort his diſciples before he was taken from them.

Number

Number XLII.

Our LORD's Agony in the Garden.

AND when they had ſung an hymn, JESUS and his diſciples went forth unto the mount of olives. Then JESUS ſaid, All ye ſhall be offended becauſe of me this night. And Simon Peter ſaid unto him, LORD, though all men ſhould be offended, yet will not I—I am ready to follow thee to priſon and to death. —I will lay down my life for thy ſake.

JESUS

JESUS anſwered, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my ſake? Verily I ſay unto thee, The cock ſhall not crow till thou haſt denied me thrice. Peter ſaid, Though I ſhould die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewiſe alſo ſaid all his diſciples.

When he had ſpoken theſe words, JESUS went into a garden, in a place called Gethſemane, where he continued ſometime in prayer; and here the thought of what he was ſhortly to ſuffer, threw him into ſuch an agony, that his ſweat ran down like great drops of blood, yet

he reſolved to ſubmit willingly to theſe ſufferings for the ſake of mankind: and he ſaid, FATHER, not my will, but thine be done. And while he prayed his diſciples ſlept, and he awoke them, and ſaid, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Sleep on now and take your reſt; behold he is at hand who ſhall betray me!

Number

Number XLIII.

Jesus betrayed by Judas.

AND Judas knew where to find Jesus, ſo having received a band of men and officers from the chief prieſts, they came with lanterns, and torches, and weapons. And Judas ſaid, Whomſoever I ſhall kiſs, the ſame is he, take him and bind him faſt. And Judas went before them, and drew nigh unto Jesus to kiſs him. But Jesus ſaid unto

him, Judas, betrayeſt thou the Son of Man with a kiſs? JESUS, therefore knowing all things that ſhould come upon him, went forth, and ſaid unto them, Whom ſeek ye? They anſwered him, JESUS of Nazareth. JESUS ſaith unto them, I am he. And Judas alſo which betrayed him ſtood with them.

As ſoon then as he had ſaid unto them, *I am He*, they went backward and fell to the ground. Then aſked he them again, Whom ſeek ye? And they ſaid, JESUS of Nazareth. JESUS ſaid, I have told you that I am He: If therefore

fore ye ſeek me, let theſe (meaning his diſciples) go away.

Then JESUS delivered himſelf into their hands, and they bound him, and led him away to Caiaphas, the high prieſt.

Number XLIV.

Peter denies CHRIST. The Jewiſh Council condemn him.

AND Simon Peter followed JESUS; and when he was queſtioned whether he

was one of his diſciples, he denied him; and when he had denied him the third time the cock crowed; and JESUS looked on him, and Peter remembered the words which JESUS had ſaid unto him, and he went out and wept bitterly.

And the chief prieſts hired falſe witneſſes againſt JESUS; but they could prove no crime in him. Then the ſcribes and rulers aſked him, ſaying, Art thou the CHRIST? tell us. He ſaid unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe—and if I alſo aſk you, ye will not let me go. Hereafter ſhall ye

ſee

ſee the SON of MAN ſitting on the right hand of GOD. Then ſaid they all, Art thou then the SON of GOD? And he ſaid unto them, Ye ſay that I am. Then the high prieſt rending his clothes, ſaid, He hath uttered blaſphemy; what further need have we of witneſſes? Behold, now ye have heard his blaſphemy, What think ye? And they ſaid, He is deſerving of death: and they all condemned him. And the men who held JESUS mocked him, and ſpit in his face, and buffeted him, and others ſmote him with the palms of their hands; and he

bore their inſults patiently for the ſake of mankind.

Number XLV.

JESUS brought forth by Pontius Pilate.

AS the Jews could not put any one to death without leave from the Romans, becauſe they were in ſubjection to them, they took JESUS to Pilate, the Roman procurator, who, after the Jews had accuſed him, aſked him, ſaying, Art thou the King of the Jews? JESUS anſwered

ſwered him, ſayeſt thou this thing of thyſelf, or did others tell it thee of me? Pilate anſwered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation, and the chief prieſts, have delivered thee unto me: What haſt thou done? JESUS anſwered, my kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my ſervants fight, that I ſhould not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore ſaid unto him, Art thou a King then? JESUS ſaid, Thou ſayeſt that I am a King. To this end was I born, and for this

cauſe came I into the world, that I ſhould bear witneſs unto the truth. And Pilate ſaid unto him, What is truth? but he ſtayed not to hear the anſwer of JESUS to this important queſtion, but went out. And Pilate told the Jews that he could find no fault in JESUS; but they grew the more outrageous. Pilate, therefore, to pleaſe them, ſent JESUS to Herod, who was then at Jeruſalem; but JESUS would not anſwer any queſtions that Herod aſked him, though the chief prieſts ſtood by and accuſed him violently. And

Herod

Herod deſpiſed him, and by way of deriſion, clothed him in a ſcarlet robe, and ſent him to Pilate, who once more tried to perſuade the Jews to let him go; but they cried out, Let him be crucified. Pilate therefore, though he thought him innocent, to pleaſe the Jews, commanded that JESUS ſhould be ſcourged; and the ſoldiers who ſcourged him, plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and a reed in his right hand; and they put on him a purple robe, and bowed the knee before him, mocking him, and ſaying, Hail King of the Jews!

Pilate, moved with pity, brought him forth, wearing the crown of thorns; and Pilate ſaid unto the Jews, Behold the man!

When the chief prieſts therefore, and officers ſaw him, they cried out, ſaying, Crucify him! Crucify him! Pilate ſaith unto them, Take ye him and crucify him, for I find no fault in him; but the more he ſpoke in his favour, the more they cried out againſt him. When Pilate ſaw that he could prevail nothing, but rather that a tumult was made, he ſaid, I am free from the blood of this juſt perſon,

perſon, ſee ye to it. Then anſwered all the people, and ſaid, His blood be on us and on our children! So Pilate, willing to content them, gave ſentence that it ſhould be as they required; and delivered JESUS to be crucified.

Number XLVI.

JUDAS returneth the money to the High Prieſt.

WHEN Judas, who had betrayed his LORD, ſaw that he was condemned, he

he repented himſelf, and brought again the thirty pieces of ſilver to the chief prieſts and elders, ſaying, I have ſinned, in that I have betrayed innocent blood. And they ſaid, What is that to us? ſee thou to that. And he caſt down the pieces of ſilver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himſelf. And the chief prieſts took the pieces of ſilver, and ſaid, It is not lawful to put the money in the treaſury, becauſe it is the price of blood; and they took counſel, and bought with it the potter's

ter's field to bury ſtrangers in: and it was called from that time the field of blood.

Number XLVII.

Jesus bearing his Croſs.

And Jesus, bearing his croſs, went forth into a place called Golgotha, or the place of a ſkull. And they obliged one Simon, a poor African, whom they chanced to meet, to help him to carry it; and there followed a great company of people, and of women, who bewailed

bewailed him. And he ſaid, Daughters of Jeruſalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourſelves and for your children. And there were alſo two others, malefactors (or wicked perſons) led with him to be put to death.

Number XLVIII.

The CRUCIFIXION.

AND when they were come unto Golgotha, on Mount Calvary, they gave to JESUS a nauſeous draught of vinegar,

vinegar, mingled with gall; but he would not drink.

And they ſtretched JESUS on the croſs, nailing him to it by his hands and feet; and they raiſed up the croſs. Then JESUS ſaid, FATHER, forgive them, for they know not what they do! And they crucified the two thieves alſo, one on his right hand, and the other on his left. Then the ſoldiers parted his garments among them, and ſat down to watch him there.

And Pilate had cauſed to be written up at the top of the croſs, THIS IS JESUS,

JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. And many of the Jews who paſſed by reviled him, ſaying, If thou be the SON of GOD, come down from the croſs. And the chief prieſts and ſcribes mocked him, ſaying, He ſaved others, himſelf he cannot ſave: If he be the King of Iſrael, let him now come down from the croſs and we will believe him. One of the malefactors alſo who was crucified with him, reviled him; but the other ſaid, LORD, remember me when thou comeſt into thy kingdom. And JESUS ſaid, Verily, I ſay unto thee, to-day ſhalt

ſhalt thou be with me in Paradiſe (for he knew that he was truly penitent.) Though JESUS ſuffered the greateſt ăgonies, and was able to do all that the chief prieſts and others pretended to require of him, yet would he not come down from the croſs, but reſolved to endure the pangs of death for the ſalvation of mankind.

Now for three hours there was darkneſs over the land. At length JESUS cried with a loud voice, FATHER, into thy hands I commend my ſpirit, and he bowed his head and expired. And behold

behold, the earth did quake, and the rocks rent. And when the Roman officer, who ſtood over againſt him, obſerved theſe things, he ſaid, Truly this man was the SON of GOD. There were alſo many looking on, and among them was Mary Magdalen, on whom he had formerly wrought a great miracle; but his beloved diſciple John had, at our LORD's deſire, taken the Mother of JESUS home to his own houſe, to cheriſh and to comfort her.

Number

Number XLIX.

The Sealing of the Sepulchre.

AS at the time of the crucifixion the Jews were preparing for a ſolemn feſtival, they begged that the legs of thoſe who were crucified might be broken, in order to haſten their death, that they might not remain on the croſſes on the feaſt day; and the ſoldiers did ſo to the thieves, but when they came to JESUS, and found that he was already dead, inſtead

ſtead of breaking his legs, one of the ſoldiers ran a ſpear into his ſide, and there flowed out blood and water. After this JESUS was taken down from the croſs; and Joſeph of Arimathea, a rich man, came and begged his body, and he and Nicodemus (who formerly came to JESUS by night) wrapped it up in linen, with ſpices, and laid it in a new ſepulchre, or tomb, hewn out of a rock which was in a garden. There they laid JESUS, and rolled a great ſtone to the door of the ſepulchre; and the women who were at his crucifixion, ſaw

where

where he was laid, and returned to make preparations for embalming him. Then the chief prieſts went to Pilate, and ſaid, Sir, we remember, that this deceiver ſaid while he was yet alive, After three days I will riſe again; command therefore that the ſepulchre be ſealed, leſt his diſciples come by night and ſteal him away, and ſay, he is riſen. Pilate ſaid, Ye have a guard, go your way, and make the ſepulchre as ſure as you can; ſo they made the ſepulchre ſure, ſealing the ſtone, and ſetting a watch.

Number

Number L.

The Reſurrection of our LORD.

AND behold, early on the morning, on the firſt day of the week, there was an earthquake, for an angel of the LORD deſcended from heaven, and rolled back the ſtone from the ſepulchre and ſat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as ſnow; and for fear of him, thoſe who watched the ſepulchre did ſhake, and were

were as dead men; and JESUS roſe from the dead, and came forth, but no man ſaw him riſe.

Then came Mary, the mother of James, and other women, to the ſepulchre, deſiring to anoint the body of JESUS: and they ſaid among themſelves, Who ſhall roll away the ſtone for us? for it was very great; and they beheld, and lo, it was rolled away.

When Mary Magdalene ſaw that the ſtone was removed, ſhe cometh to Peter and John, and ſaith, They have taken away the LORD, and we know not where

they have laid him, and ſome of the women entering the ſepulchre, ſaw not the body of JESUS, and as they were perplexed, two angels ſtood by them in ſhining garments, and as they were afraid, one of them ſaid, Fear not, for I know that ye ſeek JESUS, who was crucified; he is not here, for he is riſen from the dead. Remember what he told you while he was yet in Galilee, ſaying, The Son of Man muſt be delivered into the hands of ſinful men to be crucified, and the third day riſe again: Go quickly, and tell his diſciples and

P[illegible];

Peter; and behold he goeth before you into Galilee. After this came Peter and John, who looked into the ſepulchre, and ſaw the linen clothes lying, and the napkin that was about his head not lying with the reſt, but wrapped up in a place by itſelf. After this Mary ſaw the angels again ſitting in the ſepulchre, one at the head, the other at the feet, where the body had laid; and as ſhe was turning back ſhe ſaw JESUS ſtanding, and knew not that it was he till he ſaid unto her, Mary! She turned herſelf, and ſaid, Rabboni, that is to ſay,

Maſter; and ſhe came and told his diſciples. And the other women alſo met him, and JESUS ſaid unto them, All hail! And they came and held him by the feet, and worſhipped him. Then ſaid JESUS, Be not afraid: Go tell my brethren, that they go into Galilee, and there they ſhall ſee me. And they went and told the eleven and all the reſt; and their words ſeemed to them as idle tales. And they believed them not.

And the watch came into the city, and told unto the chief prieſts all the things that were done; and they took

counſel

counſel with the elders to bribe the ſoldiers, to ſay, that the diſciples came by night, and ſtole the body away while they ſlept, and promiſed to get them pardoned by the Governor for ſleeping on their watch. So the ſoldiers reported theſe things, and the Jewiſh people believed them, though they were very incredible; for the diſciples were too much frightened to attempt ſuch a thing, nor could they poſſibly have done it if they had tried.

Number LI.

Our LORD appears to his Apoſtles.

THE ſame day at evening, being the firſt day of the week, when the doors were ſhut, where the diſciples were aſſembled for fear of the JEWS, came JESUS, and ſtood in the midſt, and ſaith unto them, Peace be unto you: and when he had ſo ſaid, he ſhewed unto them his hands and his ſide. Then were the diſciples glad when they had ſeen the LORD.

Then

Then ſaid JESUS to them again, Peace be with you; as my Father hath ſent me, even ſo ſend I you. And when he had ſaid this, he breathed on them, and ſaid, Receive ye the HOLY GHOST. Then opened he their underſtandings, that they might underſtand the Scriptures.

But Thomas one of the twelve, was not with them when JESUS came. The other diſciples therefore ſaid unto him, We have ſeen the LORD. But Thomas ſaid unto them, Except I ſee in his hands the print of the nails, and put

my finger in the prints of the nails, and my hand to his ſide, I will not believe.

And after eight days, again his diſciples were within, and Thomas with them. Then came JESUS, and ſtood in the midſt, the doors being ſhut, and ſaid, Peace be unto you. Then ſaith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hand! and reach hither thy hand, and feel my ſide, and be not faithleſs, but believing. And Thomas anſwered and ſaid unto him, My LORD! and my God!

JESUS

JESUS ſaith unto him, Becauſe thou haſt ſeen me, thou haſt believed; bleſſed are they who have not ſeen, and yet have believed.

Number LII.

Our LORD's Aſcenſion.

THEN the eleven apoſtles went away into Galilee, unto a mountain where JESUS had appointed them; and he was ſeen of above five hundren brethren, or fellow-chriſtians, at once.

And when they ſaw him they worſhipped. And JESUS came and ſpake unto them, ſaying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. He who believeth, and is baptiſed ſhall be ſaved; but he who believeth not ſhall be damned.

And JESUS ſhewed himſelf alive after his paſſion by many infallible proofs, being ſeen of his apoſtles forty days, and ſpeaking to them of the things belonging to the kingdom of GOD.

And it came to paſs, that JESUS and his apoſtles being aſſembled together, he

he led them out as far as Bethany, and commanded them that they ſhould not depart from Jeruſalem, but wait for the promiſe of the Father, (that is to ſay, the HOLY GHOST) which, ſaith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptiſed with water, but ye ſhall be baptized with the HOLY GHOST not many days hence. And many other things ſpake he unto them concerning the kingdom of God, and commanded them to go, after they ſhould have received the HOLY GHOST, and baptiſe all nations, in the name of the FATHER, and of

the SON, and of the HOLY GHOST, promiſing to be with them even until the end of the world. And when he had ſpoken theſe things, he lift up his hands and bleſſed them. And it came to paſs, that while he bleſſed them, they beheld, and he was parted from them, and was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their ſight; and he was received into heaven, and ſat at the right hand of GOD.

And while the apoſtles looked ſtedfaſtly toward heaven, two angels ſtood by them, and ſaid, Ye men of Galilee, why

why ſtand ye here gazing up to heaven? This ſame JESUS who is taken away, ſhall ſo come in like manner, as ye have ſeen him go into heaven.

And the diſciples worſhipped the LORD, and returned to Jeruſalem with great joy; and when they were come there, they went into an upper room, and continued with one accord in prayer and ſupplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of JESUS. And they went conſtantly to the temple at the hour of prayer, praiſing and bleſſing GOD. And ſoon after they choſe a man

man named Matthias, to be an apoſtle, in the room of Judas Iſcariot.

Number LIII.

The Deſcent of the HOLY GHOST.

AND when the day of Pentecoſt (a great feaſt of the Jews) was fully come, the diſciples were all with one accord in one place. And ſuddenly there came a ſound from heaven as of a ruſhing mighty wind, and it filled all the place where they were ſitting; and there appeared

peared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it ſat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Ghoſt, and began to ſpeak in other languages which they had never known before: and when this wonderful circumſtance was noiſed abroad, numbers of people from different nations, who were then at Jeruſalem, came unto them, and were aſtoniſhed to hear them ſpeak to each man in his own native language, and ſaid one to another, What meaneth this? Others mocking, ſaid, Theſe men are full of new wine. But Peter

ſtood

ſtood up and explained the matter to them, by informing them, that they were enabled to ſpeak theſe different languages by the power of the HOLY SPIRIT, which ſeveral of their Prophets had foretold ſhould be ſent upon the ſervants of the MESSIAH. Peter then preached the goſpel to them, and boldly declared, that CHRIST, whom the chief prieſts and elders had cauſed to be crucified, was riſen from the dead, and being exalted to the right hand of GOD, had received power to ſend the HOLY SPIRIT on his diſciples.

Peter

Peter then exhorted the people to repent of their ſins, and be baptized in the name of the LORD JESUS, that their former ſins might be forgiven them, and that they might partake of the gift of the HOLY GHOST. Then many gladly received his word; and there were added to the number of the diſciples that very day three thouſand ſouls. And they continued ſtedfaſt in the apoſtle's doctrine and fellowſhip, and in breaking of bread as our LORD had commanded, in remembrance of him.

Number

Number LIV.

The lame Man cured by PETER and JOHN.

BEFORE our LORD aſcended up into heaven, he told his apoſtles, that after they ſhould have received the HOLY GHOST, and begun to preach, they ſhould be enabled to work miracles in his name.

Now it came to paſs, that Peter and John went up together to the temple, at the hour of prayer; and a certain man,

man, lame from his birth, ſat daily in the beautiful gate of the temple to aſk alms. And he begged of Peter and John; and Peter looking earneſtly on him, ſaid, Look on us: and he gave heed to them expecting an alms. Then Peter ſaid, Silver and gold have I none, but what I have give I unto thee. In the name of JESUS CHRIST, of Nazareth, ariſe and walk: and he took the lame man by the right hand, and immediately he received ſtrength, and leaped, and walked, and went into the temple, praiſing GOD, who had given

ſuch

ſuch power unto men; and the man was about forty years old. And all the people were amazed, and ran together to look at Peter and John.

Then Peter told them, they had not done this miracle by their own power, but through faith in the name of CHRIST, whom the chief prieſts had crucified, and GOD had raiſed;

Number

Number LV.

PETER before the Jewiſh Council.

WHEN the chief prieſts heard that Peter and John taught in the temple, and converted many, they were diſpleaſed, and cauſed them to be brought before them, then Peter, being full of the HOLY GHOST, boldly bore witneſs to the truth of the reſurrection of JESUS, and declared the reſolution of himſelf and John, to preach the goſpel, notwithſtanding

withſtanding they were ſeverely threatened by the chief prieſts and rulers, who for fear of the people let them go.

Number LVI.

The Death of ANNANIAS and SAPPHIRA.

AND the multitude of thoſe who believed, were of one heart, and one ſoul; and ſuch as had houſes and lands, ſold them to raiſe a fund for the ſupply of their mutual neceſſities, and brought

brought the money and laid it at the apoſtles' feet; and they had all things in common. But a certain man, named Annanias, with Sapphira, his wife, ſold a poſſeſſion, and kept back part of the price; (his wife being privy to it) and he brought a certain part to the apoſtles. But Peter ſaid to him, Why hath Satan filled thine heart? (why do you ſuffer yourſelf to be tempted to lie to the HOLY GHOST) and to keep back part of the land? Whilſt it remained, was it not thy own? and after it was ſold, was not the price of it in thy own power?

power? Why haſt thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou haſt not lied to man, but unto God.

And Annanias hearing theſe words, fell down and gave up the ghoſt. And great fear came on all who heard theſe things. And he was carried out and buried.

And about four hours afterwards, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. And Peter ſaid unto her, Tell me whether ye ſold the land for ſo much? And ſhe ſaid, Yea, for ſo much. Then Peter ſaid unto her, How

is

is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the SPIRIT OF THE LORD? Behold, the feet of them who have buried thy huſband are at the door, and ſhall carry thee out. Then fell ſhe down ſtraightway and died. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her forth they buried her by her huſband. And great fear came upon all who heard theſe things.

Number LVII.

STEPHEN Stoned to Death.

AND a man called Stephen (one of the deacons who had been appointed to aſſiſt the apoſtles in dividing what was collected) did great wonders and miracles among the people; and ſome of the Jews diſputed with him, but were not able to reſiſt the wiſdom of the SPIRIT by which he ſpake; ſo they hired falſe witneſſes, who

who ſaid, This man ceaſeth not to ſpeak blaſphemous words againſt this holy place and the law: For we heard him ſay, that this JESUS of Nazareth, will deſtroy this place, and will change the cuſtoms which Moſes delivered to us. And all who ſat in the council, looking ſtedfaſtly on Stephen, ſaw his face as it had been the face of an angel. Then Stephen opened to them the Scriptures, ſhewing them the backſlidings of the people of GOD, from the days of Abraham to the coming of CHRIST, and their idolatries, and how

they disobeyed Moses, persecuted the prophets, and betrayed and crucified the MESSIAH.

And Stephen said, Ye stiff-necked people, ye do always resist the HOLY GHOST. As your fathers did so do ye. When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed upon him with their teeth. And he being full of the HOLY GHOST, looked stedfastly up to heaven, and said, Behold, I see the heavens open, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of GOD! Then they cried out with a loud

loud voice, and ſtopped their ears, and ran in with one accord to caſt him out of the city, and ſtoned him. And Stephen, while they ſtoned him, called upon God, and cried LORD JESUS receive my ſpirit! And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, O LORD! lay not this ſin to their charge; and when he ſaid this, he fell into the ſleep of death. And a young man named Saul, was conſenting unto his death, and held the clothes of ſome who ſtoned him.

And Stephen was buried by the bre-

thren (as the Chriſtians were called) and great lamentation was made for his death. But a dreadful perſecution was begun againſt the Chriſtians, who, all excepting the apoſtles, left Jeruſalem and diſperſed.

Number LVIII.

The Converſion of Saul.

And Saul became a great enemy to the Church (that is to ſay, to the Chriſtians) and breathing out threatnings and ſlaughter

ſlaughter againſt the diſciples of the LORD, he went unto the high prieſt, and deſired of him letters to Damaſcus, giving him power to ſeize any of them, whether men or women, and bring them bound to Jeruſalem.

And as he journeyed he came near to Damaſcus, and ſuddenly there ſhined round about him a light from heaven, and he fell to the earth, and heard a voice ſaying unto him, Saul! Saul! why perſecuteſt thou me? And Saul ſaid, Who art thou LORD? And the Lord ſaid, I am JESUS, whom thou

perſecuteſt. And Saul, trembling and aſtoniſhed, ſaid, Lord, what wilt thou have me do? And the LORD ſaid unto him, Ariſe, and go into the city, and it ſhall be told thee what thou ſhalt do.

And the men who journeyed with him ſtood ſpeechleſs, hearing a voice, but ſeeing no man. And Saul aroſe from the earth, and they led him to Damaſcus; and he was there three days without ſight, and did neither eat nor drink. And then the LORD ſent a certain diſciple to him, called Annanias, and

and Annanias putting his hands upon him, ſaid, Brother Saul, the LORD JESUS, who appeared unto thee in the way that thou cameſt, haſt ſent me that thou mighteſt receive thy ſight, and be filled with the HOLY GHOST. The GOD of thy fathers has choſen thee that thou ſhouldeſt know his will, and ſee that juſt One, and ſhould hear the voice of his mouth; for thou ſhalt be a witneſs unto all men, of what thou haſt ſeen and heard. And now why tarrieſt thou? Ariſe and be baptiſed, waſhing away thy ſins, and calling upon

the name of the LORD. And immediately there fell from the eyes of Saul, as it had been great ſcales, and he inſtantly received ſight, and aroſe, and was baptiſed. And when he had eaten meat he was ſtrengthened. And immediately afterwards he preached the goſpel publicly in the ſynagogues, declaring JESUS to be the SON of GOD, and thoſe who heard him were aſtoniſhed, knowing that he came to Damaſcus with another intent. And Saul went on boldly preaching the LORD JESUS, and endured much perſecution,

and

and rejoiced that he was thought worthy to ſuffer for his LORD's ſake. After his converſion he was called Paul, inſtead of Saul.

Before the perſecution of Paul, the Chriſtians were dreadfully harraſſed, and numbers put to death; but afterwards theſe perſecutions abated, and Chriſtian churches, or ſocieties, were eſtabliſhed throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and the members of them led the moſt pious and exemplary lives, enjoyed the comfort of the HOLY SPIRIT, and

multitudes of people were converted to the truth.

Number LIX.

ENEAS and DORCAS raiſed to Life at the Prayer of PETER.

AND it came to paſs as Peter paſſed through all quarters, he came alſo to the Chriſtians who dwelt at a place called Lydda, and there he found a certain man named Eneas, who had kept his bed eight years with the palſy.

And

And Peter ſaid unto him, Eneas, JESUS CHRIST maketh thee whole: Ariſe and make thy bed; and he aroſe immediately. And many by this miracle were brought to believe in CHRIST.

And there was at Joppa, a certain diſciple named Dorcas, who gave a great deal in alms, and did other good works. And ſhe was ſick and died. And as Lydda was near to Joppa, the diſciples ſent two men unto Peter, deſiring him to come. Then Peter went, and when he was come into the chamber, all the widows ſtood by him weeping, and

ſhewing

ſhewing the coats and garments which Dorcas had made for them. Peter deſired them all to leave the room, that they might not diſturb his devotions, and then he kneeled down and prayed; and riſing up, he turning to the body, ſaid, Dorcas ariſe, and ſhe opened her eyes; and when ſhe beheld Peter, ſhe ſat up, and he gave her his hand, and lifted her up; and when he had called the diſciples and widows, he preſented her alive to them. And it was known throughout Joppa, and many believed on the LORD.

And

And Peter ſtayed ſome time at Joppa, at the houſe of one Simon, a tanner.

Number LX.

Cornelius's Viſion.

THERE was a certain man in Cæſarea, named Cornelius, an officer in the Roman army, a devout man, who, though he was a Gentile, feared God, with all his family, gave much alms, and prayed to God always.

He

He ſaw in a viſion evidently, an angel of GOD coming to him, and ſaying unto him, Cornelius! And when he had looked on him, he was afraid, and ſaid, What is it, LORD? And the angel ſaid, Thy prayers, and thine alms are come up for a memorial before GOD; and now ſend men to Joppa; for one Simon, whoſe ſurname is Peter, who lodgeth with one Simon, a tanner, whoſe houſe is by the ſea-ſide, he ſhall tell thee what thou oughteſt to do.

And when the angel was departed, Cornelius called two of his houſehold ſervants,

ſervants, and a devout ſoldier, who waited on him continually; and after he had declared theſe things he ſent them to Joppa.

On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter, as he was praying on the houſe-top, had alſo a viſion, by which the LORD taught him, that he muſt not hold the Gentiles in contempt, but be willing to preach the goſpel unto them. And while Peter was wondering what it meant, the HOLY SPIRIT ſaid unto him, Behold, three men ſeek thee; go with

with them, doubting nothing, for I have ſent them. Peter therefore went down, and having received an account of what had happened to Cornelius, he invited the men to lodge there; and the next day went with them to Cæſarea, where Cornelius waited for him, and had got together a number of his relations and friends.

As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet to worſhip him; but Peter ſaid, Stand up, I alſo am a man. Then Cornelius gave an account of his viſion, and expreſſed

his

his ſatisfaction that Peter was come. Then Peter opened his mouth, and ſaid, Of a truth I perceive that GOD is no reſpecter of perſons; for in every nation, he who feareth him, and worketh righteouſneſs, is accepted of him, (or admitted into the Chriſtian covenant.) Then preached he the goſpel unto them. And while he preached, the HOLY GHOST came upon all who were preſent; and all the Jews who came with Peter were aſtoniſhed, becauſe, that on the Gentiles alſo was poured out the HOLY GHOST; for they heard them

ſpeak

ſpeak with other tongues, and magnify GOD.

Then Peter baptiſed them all, and received them into the Chriſtian church; and they entreated him to tarry with them certain days.

Number LXI.

PETER delivered out of Priſon by an ANGEL.

NOW it came to paſs, that Herod, the nephew of him who cauſed John the Baptiſt to be beheaded, perſecuted ſome of the Chriſtians, and ſlew James, the brother of John, with the ſword. And becauſe he ſaw this pleaſed the Jews, he proceeded further, and took Peter, and threw him into priſon, where he

he was bound with two chains, which for ſecurity, were faſtened to two ſoldiers, and ſixteen other ſoldiers were commanded to guard him in turn, four at a time. While Peter was kept in priſon, earneſt prayers were offered up for him by the Chriſtians.

And the very night that Herod intended to bring him forth, Peter was ſleeping between two ſoldiers, bound with two chains, and the priſon door was guarded by the keepers. And behold, the angel of the LORD came unto him, and a light ſhined in the priſon,

and

and the angel ſmote Peter on the ſide, and raiſed him up, ſaying, Ariſe up quickly, and his chains fell off his hands. And the angel ſaid unto him, Gird thyſelf, and bind on thy ſandals; and he did ſo. And he ſaid unto him, Caſt thy garment about thee, and follow me; and he did ſo, but thought he only ſaw a viſion. When they came to the outward iron gate, it opened, and they went out, and paſſed through one ſtreet, and then the angel departed.

And when Peter was come to himſelf, he ſaid, Now know I of a ſurety that

that the LORD hath ſent an angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from the Jews.

And as ſoon as it was day, there was no ſmall ſtir among the ſoldiers, what was become of Peter. And when Herod found that he had eſcaped, he commanded the keepers to be put to death. But ſhortly after, the cruel tyrant himſelf came to a miſerable end; for the angel of the LORD ſmote him as he was taking to himſelf the glory that belongs to GOD alone, and he was eaten of worms even before he expired.

Number

Number LXII.

PAUL before FELIX.

AFTER this, Paul journeyed from place to place, preaching the goſpel, and converting many; but he met with a variety of misfortunes, and was ſeveral times in priſon, and in danger of death, yet nothing diſcouraged him; for the LORD comforted him with his HOLY SPIRIT, and enabled him to do many wonderful things. At laſt, ſome Jews,

to the number of forty, formed a conſpiracy againſt him, and bound themſelves by an oath, That they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

But the matter was made known to a nephew of Paul's, and he apprized the chief captain of his danger, who was, in ſecret, Paul's friend, and ſent him away in the night, with a ſtrong guard of ſoldiers, by whom he was conducted with ſpeed and ſafety to Felix, the Governor of the province, When Felix had read the letter which the chief captain

tain ſent concerning the priſoner, he told Paul he would hear his cauſe himſelf, as ſoon as his accuſers ſhould arrive. In a few days the high prieſt, Annanias, with ſeveral of the elders, came down to Cæſarea in perſon, and brought with them a certain orator, named Tertullus. And when Paul was called forth, Tertullus began to accuſe him as a peſtilent fellow, and a mover of ſedition. Felix permitted Paul to defend himſelf; and while he reaſoned of righteouſneſs, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled; for his

conſcience told him, that he had not lived a life of righteouſneſs and temperance, and therefore he feared to appear before the judgment-ſeat of CHRIST; but inſtead of inquiring of the apoſtle what he ſhould do to obtain ſalvation, he ſaid to him, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient ſeaſon, I will call for thee.

After this, Felix ſent for Paul frequently, but not to learn righteouſneſs and temperance of him; his hope was, that the apoſtle would offer him a ſum of money to ſet him at liberty, and as he

he did not, he left him a priſoner when he was removed from his government.

Paul met with a variety of other adventures, and continued to preach the goſpel with the utmoſt zeal and fortitude, as did the other apoſtles in different parts of the world; and they had the happineſs of converting many thouſands of people to Chriſtianity.

At length every one of them, excepting St. John, were put to death by their perſecutors, and died rejoicing, that they were found worthy to ſuffer as witneſſes of the truth, knowing that

a crown of glory and immortal happineſs would be beſtowed on each of them, as a reward for their conſtancy; and that they ſhould be received into the kingdom of their beloved LORD, and remain in his divine preſence for ever.

Number

Number LXIII.

The final Deſtruction of JERUSALEM.

WHILE our SAVIOUR was on earth, he repeatedly told the Jews, who would not receive him as the MESSIAH, that inſtead of their becoming a great and powerful people as they expected, their city and nation ſhould be deſtroyed. And he told his apoſtles many ſigns that would happen, by which the Chriſtians, who ſhould be living at

that time, might know that this dreadful judgment was near at hand, and flee from Jeruſalem.

Every thing fell out as our LORD foretold; famines and peſtilences, earthquakes, wars, and rumours of wars, plagued this rebellious people for a number of years; they never proſpered from the time they condemned CHRIST to be crucified, and cried out, *His blood be upon us and our Children!*

At laſt Jeruſalem was beſieged by the Roman army, which was at that time commanded by Titus, the ſon of the Emperor

Emperor Veſpaſian. After cauſing the Jews to ſuffer the moſt extreme hardſhips, Titus entered the city. Numbers of the inhabitants were put to the ſword, and many taken captive. The temple was burnt, and the whole city pulled to the ground; and what is very remarkable, the deſtruction of this temple happened on the very ſame day of the year on which Nebuchadnezzar burnt the firſt.

Our LORD had aſſured his diſciples, that though they were to ſuffer many things for his ſake, not a hair of their

heads ſhould periſh, when theſe calamities came upon the Jews; and hiſtory informs us, that not one Chriſtian was involved in the deſtruction of Jeruſalem.

Several attempts were afterwards made to rebuild Jeruſalem, in order to eſtabliſh the Jewiſh worſhip, but they were all fruſtrated by divine Providence, and the Jews diſperſed over all countries, without being owned by any.

In this ſtate they ſtill remain, a deſpiſed and abject people, and ſo will continue, till they acknowledge JESUS CHRIST

CHRIST to be their MESSIAH; which the Scriptures intimate they will not do, till all the Gentile nations are either converted to Chriſtianity, or cut off for rejecting it.

Number LXIV.

St. JOHN writing the Book of REVELATIONS.

ST. John might be ſaid to ſuffer martyrdom, though he did not die by it; for at the command of the cruel Emperor Domitian, he was thrown into a cauldron of oil, ſet on fire; but the LORD preſerved his beloved diſciple, ſo that the flames had no power over him.

After this, the mercileſs tyrant baniſhed the holy apoſtle to a deſolate iſland, called

called Patmos. Here he had many wonderful viſions, which are related in his book of Revelations, at the end of the New Teſtament.

The deſign of theſe viſions was, to convince St. John, and by his means to inform the world, that JESUS CHRIST reigns in Heaven; and to aſſure them, that all who continue faithful to him to the end of their lives, ſhall be received into his kingdom, which will never be deſtroyed, and in which they will enjoy bleſſings and honours beyond what we can poſſibly conceive.

CONCLUSION.

CONCLUSION.

I HAVE now given you an account of the wonderful manner in which GOD eſtabliſhed the kingdom of his beloved Son. Who would not wiſh to become a member of it? Thanks to divine goodneſs, even children in this country, are in their earlieſt days admitted to this honour. Soon after they are born, they are baptiſed in the name of the FATHER, and of the SON, and of

of the HOLY GHOST, and by this mean made members of CHRIST, children of GOD, and inheritors, or heirs, of the kingdom of Heaven.—They are brought unto their Saviour as he commanded; and no doubt, in his abundant love and compaſſion, he graciouſly receives them as his, and reckons them as the lambs of that flock, for which he laid down his life, that they might riſe from the dead.

But remember, that it is required of thoſe who have been received into CHRIST's flock, that they live as become

come members of CHRIST, children of GOD, and inheritors of the kingdom of Heaven. This no one can do without help from above; but this help is afforded to all who pray earneſtly for it, and ſincerely ſtrive to do the beſt they can.

The SAVIOUR has promiſed to ſend his HOLY SPIRIT to all who believe in him, and are deſirous of doing the will of their Father who is in Heaven; and the HOLY Spirit will enable all ſuch to underſtand their duty, as it is made known in the Scriptures, and will alſo ſtrengthen

ſtrengthen them to perform it, and overcome the temptations of the devil.

In this world the inheritors, or heirs, of the kingdom of heaven, are, as well as the reſt of mankind, expoſed to many temptations, trials, and afflictions; but if they pray for the aid of the HOLY SPIRIT, truſt in their SAVIOUR, and ſtrive to follow his bleſſed example in meekneſs and godlineſs, they will certainly be enabled to bear the worſt that can happen to them; and CHRIST will aſſuredly give them the PEACE OF GOD, which paſſeth all underſtanding,

and

and which the wicked can never enjoy.

Theſe will be the bleſſings of the inheritors of the kingdom of heaven, during this preſent life; and at the end of the world, the SAVIOUR will come again in the clouds with all his holy angels, when thoſe who have been good Chriſtians ſhall riſe from the dead and meet their LORD in the air; and he will ſay unto them, *Come, ye bleſſed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.* Then ſhall they be admitted into the regions

regions of immortal bliſs, where they will dwell for ever in the preſence of GOD, and be like the holy angels, happy to all eternity.

How different will be the fate of the wicked when the laſt trumpet ſhall ſound, and they are raiſed from the dead! Inſtead of feeling joy at their bleſſed LORD's approach, they will be ſeized with the utmoſt terror. Then will they call to the graves to receive them again—to the rocks to cover them, or to the ſea to ſwallow them up; but all in vain! When their heavenly

heavenly judge comes they muſt appear before him.

How will they wiſh then, that they had in their former lives prepared themſelves for the kingdom of heaven? And what dreadful agonies will take poſſeſſion of their minds, when they ſhall hear the SAVIOUR, whoſe redemption they have ſlighted—who would have gathered them together, as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, but they would not. How will they mourn and lament when they ſhall hear him ſay, Depart from me ye wicked into

into everlaſting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels!

Lay theſe things to heart, my young readers; be perſuaded to devote yourſelves to the ſervice of GOD in your early years, and before the world gets poſſeſſion of your affections, reſolve to follow the example of your bleſſed Redeemer.

Be aſſured, that you will find no pleaſures in this life, equal to thoſe which you will enjoy in the practice of your duty. Remember, that there is

an

an eternal inheritance provided for you, which none can hinder you of, if you continue ſtedfaſt in your Chriſtian profeſſion. Accuſtom yourſelves to think frequently of the day of judgment, and of the kingdom of heaven. Call to mind what JESUS CHRIST has done and ſuffered, to obtain everlaſting life and happineſs for the true ſervants of GOD; and endeavour to live in ſuch a manner, that whenever you are taken out of this world, you may, through the mercy of GOD, and the merits of

your adorable SAVIOUR, gain admittance into the regions of everlasting bliss.

THE END.